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From the United States Department of Agriculture

Office of Communications

April 1999

This directory lists sources of information in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its various agencies.

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Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

FARM SERVICE AGENCY administers farm commodity, crop insurance, and conservation programs for farmers and makes farm ownership and operating loans. FSA programs are primarily directed at agricultural producers or, in the case of loans, at those with farm experience. Through the Commodity Credit Corporation, the agency provides financing for the purchase, storage, and shipment of commodities in federal stocks. Additionally, FSA provides emergency conservation and assistance programs to farmers.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE represents U.S. farmers and the food and agricultural sector abroad through a network of overseas offices. FAS collects, analyzes, and disseminates information about global supply and demand, trade trends, and market opportunities. FAS seeks improved market access for U.S. products; administers export financing and market development programs; provides export services; carries out food aid and market-related technical assistance programs; and provides linkages to world resources and international organizations.

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY improves the economic stability of agriculture by providing producers a sound system of crop insurance. Federal crop insurance covers losses due to unavoidable causes such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, wind, frost, insects, and disease. Currently 62 major crops are insurable. Crop insurance is available from crop insurance agents and certain Farm Service Agency offices. Insurance protection must be purchased prior to sales

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CENTER FOR NUTRITION POLICY AND PROMOTION provides direction and coordination for USDA's nutrition research and policy activities. The Center publishes the Family Economics and Nutrition Review and Expenditures on Children by Families, and in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, develops and publishes the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

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AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE provides market news reports; develops quality grade standards for agricultural commodities; provides voluntary grading services for livestock, meat, poultry, eggs, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, cotton and tobacco; administers marketing regulatory programs, marketing agreements and orders, and research and promotion programs; administers national organic standards activities; administers USDA's laboratory accreditation program; administers federal-state marketing improvement programs, wholesale facilities research programs, and food purchases for USDA food assistance programs; and is the coordinator for USDA's pesticide data program and pesticide recordkeeping program activities.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE administers regulatory programs to control or eradicate animal and plant pests and diseases; enforces domestic and port-of-entry agricultural quarantines; licenses and assures safety and effectiveness of veterinary biological products; ensures the safety of agricultural products of biotechnology; enforces the Animal Welfare and Horse Protection Acts; administers programs providing protection to livestock and crops from depredation by rodents, birds and predatory animals; and conducts cooperative programs to eradicate animal and plant pests and diseases in other countries.

GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American

agriculture. One of GIPSA's programs, the Packers and Stockyards Programs, ensures open and competitive markets for livestock, meat, and poultry. The other, the Federal Grain Inspection Service, facilitates the marketing of U.S. grain and related agricultural products by providing the market with Federal quality standards and a uniform system for applying them.

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Natural Resources and Environment

FOREST SERVICE administers programs for applying sound conservation and utilization practices to natural resources of the national forests and national grasslands, for promoting these practices on all forest lands through cooperation with states and private landowners and for carrying out extensive forest and range research.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE provides leadership and administers programs to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources and environment. Working with landowners and operators in local conservation districts, NRCS addresses this country's natural resource problems as they affect private lands in agriculture and other uses. NRCS is the lead agency in USDA for conservation and administers several programs including, the environmental quality incentives programs, wetlands reserve program, wildlife habitat incentives program, and watershed protection and flood prevention program; leads the national cooperative soil survey and national resource inventory; and provides USDA leadership in assisting landowners and local groups in resource conservation and development projects.

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consumers in the animal and plant sciences, including disease and pest controls, soil and water conservation, postharvest processing and storage of commodities, safety of food, human nutrition, and integration of agricultural systems. In addition, ARS measures food consumption and dietary levels of the population; develops standard reference tables on the nutritive values of foods; and develops and cooperates with others in the development of materials to aid the public in meeting dietary needs, with emphasis on good nutrition, appropriate cost, palatability, safety, avoiding food waste, and conserving energy. ARS also operates the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC., and the National Agricultural Library (NAL) in Beltsville, MD. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY provides information on agricultural research and related subjects to scientists, educators and farmers using computer data bases; coordinates and is primary resource for national network of state land grant university and field libraries; and serves as the U.S. center for the international agriculture information system.

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE is pledged to meeting the country's needs for research knowledge and educational programs that will enable people to make better informed decisions. Through partnership with the system of State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES), land-grant, other colleges and universities along with other public and private research and education organizations, CSREES is USDA's principal link to the university system for the initiation and development of agricultural research and education programs. CSREES is the federal partner in the Cooperative Extension System, a nationwide public-funded nonformal education network that combines the expertise and resources of Federal, State, and local governments through USDA, 103 land-grant universities, and 3,150 county Extension units. CSREES also administers the National Research Initiative, a

competitively awarded grants program targeted to fundamental and mission-linked research and the Fund for rural America, a competitive research, education and extension grant program. **ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE** conducts research in domestic and foreign agricultural economics; analyzes factors affecting agriculture, farm productivity, financing, use of resources and potentials of rural areas; evaluates marketing potentials and development and marketing costs; studies U.S. trade in agricultural products and the role of agriculture in economic development of other nations; and reports situation and outlook, commodity projections, price spreads, and analysis of U.S. farm commodity programs. Office of Energy coordinates USDA's energy policy, including all issues dealing with agricultural energy use and agricultural impacts of energy development and use; coordinates the energy activities of all USDA agencies; and identifies information resource personnel in other agencies.

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USDA's Rural Development mission area helps to overcome the problems and fulfill the promise of rural America. Rural Development programs improve the quality of life for rural residents by creating quality housing, a vibrant rural business sector and by ensuring that rural areas are served by utilities and the Information Superhighway. This USDA mission area is comprised of the RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE (RBS), RURAL HOUSING SERVICE (RHS), RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE (RUS), and the OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (OCD). RBS' emphasis is on making loan guarantees or direct loans for projects that preserve or create quality jobs and/or promote a clean rural environment. The Cooperative Services program of RBS provides technical assistance, research and educational materials to strengthen the Nation's rural cooperatives and to help develop new cooperatives. RHS provides loans and grants that help more than 65,000 moderate-, low-, or very-low-income families secure quality housing each year. The Community Facilities Loan program of RHS builds or improves facilities that provide health care, public safety or other vital public services in rural communities. RUS helps to finance electric, telecommunications, water and wastewater facilities that serve rural areas. The RUS distance learning and medical link programs offer improved education and health services to isolated rural areas. OCD administers the Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities program, which provides revitalization for economically depressed rural areas.

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EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST advises the Secretary of Agriculture on policies and programs affecting U.S. agriculture and rural areas, and informs the Secretary on related economic developments. The Office also is a focal point for farm labor issues within USDA. Units under the OCE coordinate the Department's work in economic forecasting, meteorology, risk analysis, global climate change, small farms, sustainable development, energy policy, and new uses of farm products.

WORLD AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK BOARD coordinates USDA's supply and use commodity forecasts and agricultural situation and outlook forecasts, issues monthly U.S. and world supply and demand estimates; leads department meteorology and remote sensing activities; assesses the impact of weather on agriculture; and coordinates USDA's annual Outlook Forum. The Board operates a Joint Agricultural Weather Facility with the National Weather Service. OFFICE OF RISK ASSESSMENT AND COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS reviews and approves risk

assessments and cost-benefit analyses associated with major human health, safety, and environmental regulations. It also serves as a focal point for risk assessment issues and methods in USDA.

GLOBAL CHANGE PROGRAM OFFICE serves as USDA's focal point for climate change issues affecting agriculture, rural areas, and forestry. The Office coordinates global change issues among five USDA agencies and acts as a liaison to other governmental bodies.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SMALL FARMS identifies new opportunities for USDA involvement in small farm issues; integrate a small farm emphasis into USDA policies and programs; and coordinates responses to the recommendations of the National Commission on Small Farms. This unit also coordinates USDA policies and programs in sustainable development for agriculture, forestry, and rural communities.

OFFICE OF ENERGY POLICY AND NEW USES provides economic analysis on energy policy issues, coordinates USDA energy-related activities within and outside the Department, and studies the feasibility of new uses of agricultural products.

Public Information Officer Raymond L. Bridge Office of the	202-720-5447 rbridge@oce.usda		Washington, DC 20250-3812 FAX 202-690-1805
Chief Economist	202-720-4164 ginny.taylor@usda	Rm112-A	Washington, DC 20250-3810 FAX 202-690-4915
Agricultural Labor Affairs Al French World Agricultural Outlook	202-720-4737 al.french@usda.go		Washington, DC 20250-3810 FAX 202-690-4915
Board Raymond L. Bridge	202-720-5447 rbridge@oce.usda		Washington, DC 20250-3812 FAX 202-690-1805

Chief Meteorologist Albert Peterlin Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis Alwynelle (Nell) Ahl	202-720-5447 apeterlin@oce.uso 202-720-8022 aahl@oce.usda.go	la.gov Rm 5248-S	Washington, DC 20250-3812 FAX 202-720-4043 Washington, D.C. 20250-3811 FAX 202-720-1815
Global Change Program Office Margot Anderson	202-720-1977 manderson@oce.u		Reporters Building, Stop 3814 Washington, DC 20250-3812 FAX 202-401-1176
Sustainable Dev.& Small Farms Adela Backiel Office of Energy Policy and New Uses James Duffield	202-720-2456 adela.backiel@usc 202-401-0523 jduffield@oce.usd	Rm 361	Washington, DC 20250-3810 FAX 202-690-4915 300 7 th St., S.W. Washington, DC 20024 FAX 202-401-0533

NATIONAL APPEALS DIVISION

NATIONAL APPEAL DIVISION, operating as an independent entity, makes final determinations on administrative appeals of USDA program decisions.

Freedom of Info Act Officer 703-305-1164 Rm 1113 Park Office Center Larry Shrum lshrum@usda.gov Alexandria, VA 22302 FAX 703-305-2825

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS provides direction and administration of the Department's budgetary functions; reviews program and legislative proposals for program and budget related implications; analyzes program and resource issues and alternatives; and provides departmentwide coordination for and participation in the presentation of budget related matters to the committees of Congress, the press and publics. OBPA also provides departmentwide coordination of the preparation and processing of the legislative program and legislative reports, and departmentwide coordination and processing of regulations.

Freedom of Info Act Officer 202-720-1272 Rm118-E Washington, DC 20250 Jacquelyn Chandler jyc@obpa.usda.gov

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Other USDA Offices

OFFICE OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

OFFICE OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, under the direction of USDA's Chief Financial Officer, provides direction, leadership and coordination of USDA programs in finance, accounting, federal assistance, occupational safety and health, productivity, management improvement and administrative systems; oversees activities of the National Finance Center and fulfills the comptrollership function of the working capital fund; and provides budget, accounting and fiscal services to USDA staff offices and the Office of the Secretary.

Freedom of Info Act Officer 202-720-1221 Rm4088-S Washington, DC 20250 Gary Barber

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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL provides legal counsel and services to the Secretary of Agriculture and all USDA agencies.

Freedom of Info Act Attorney 202-720-5565 Rm2321-S Washington, DC 20250 Kenneth Cohen

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OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL conducts and supervises audits and investigations relating to USDA's programs and operations; provides leadership and coordination and recommends policies for activities designed to prevent and detect fraud and abuse and to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness in USDA programs and operations; and keeps the Secretary and Congress fully informed of problems and deficiencies relating to administration of USDA programs, operations and actions designed to correct such problems and deficiencies.

Director, Info Mngt Div Dianne Smith Chief, Policy Dev & Info 202-720-5677 Rm 13-E Nancy Bartel Freedom of Info Act Officer Carol Martin

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Washington, DC 20250 FAX 202-690-6305 Washington, DC 20250 FAX 202-690-6305 Washington, DC 20250 FAX 202-690-6305

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION contributes to accomplishing USDA's mission through leadership and service in administrative management activities, including human resources, property, procurement, civil rights, and small and disadvantaged businesses and competition advocacy.

Freedom of Info Act Liaison 202-720-7765 Washington, DC 20250 Rm347-W Evelyn M. Davis FAX 202-690-4728

Civil Rights Freedom of Information

Farook Sait Washington, DC 20250 202-720-7569 Rm334-W FAX 202-205-2891

OFFICE OF CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

OFFICE OF CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER is responsible for assuring that information technology is acquired and information resources are managed effectively; for developing and maintaining a sound and integrated information technology architecture for USDA; and for monitoring the performance of USDA's information technology programs.

Freedom of Info Act Officer
Howard Baker

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